



Order 2003-2-2

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 4th day of February, 2003

Ninety-day notice of intent of

GREAT LAKES AVIATION, LTD.

to terminate service at Waterloo, Iowa, under 49
U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

Served: February 7, 2003

Docket OST-2002-13825

ORDER ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

Summary

By this order, the Department is allowing Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. (Great Lakes), to suspend its scheduled service at Waterloo, Iowa, effective February 7, 2003. (See Appendix A for map.)

Background

On November 13, 2002,¹ Great Lakes filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend service at Waterloo, Iowa, effective February 7, 2003. Great Lakes currently operates five daily nonstop round trips to Chicago-O'Hare with 19-seat Beech 1900 aircraft.

In addition to Great Lakes' service, Northwest Airlink operates four nonstop weekday round trips between Waterloo and Minneapolis/St. Paul with 33-seat Saab 340 aircraft.

Order 84-5-74 defines Waterloo's essential air service (EAS) determination as two daily two-stop round trips to Chicago, Denver or St. Louis and two daily one-stop round trips to Minneapolis/St. Paul, with a total of 67 seats inbound and 67 seats outbound.²

Decision

After careful consideration, we have decided to allow Great Lakes to suspend service at Waterloo, effective February 7, 2003. We recognize that the remaining service is operated to only one of Waterloo's designated hubs. However, hub designations assume that service would not be

¹ While Great Lakes' notice was dated November 7th, it was not filed in the Dockets Office until November 13th.

² Order 86-5-39 established Waterloo's seat guarantee at 62, based on capacity sufficient to accommodate 40 enplanements a day at a 65-percent load factor: $40/.65 = 62$. However, the Airport and Airway Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1987, P.L. 100-223, subsequently changed the load-factor standard from 65 to 60 percent, and Waterloo's guarantee thus became 67 seats: $40/.60 = 67$.

available from the community to any other hubs. If other service is in fact available when one carrier files notice to suspend service, we consider whether the remaining service can meet the community's needs.³ Northwest Airlink's remaining service, consisting of four nonstop weekday round trips to Minneapolis/St. Paul -- providing 132 seats outbound and inbound -- is far in excess of Waterloo's guarantee of 67 seats inbound and outbound each day. In addition, Minneapolis/St. Paul is one of the largest airports in the country providing access to the rest of the country as well as international destinations. Therefore, in this case, we conclude that this service will meet the core responsibility of the EAS program to provide Waterloo a continuing link to the national air transportation system.

As a final matter, we expect Great Lakes, before suspending service, to contact all passengers who hold reservations for the flights to be suspended, to inform them of the suspension, and to assist them in arranging alternate transportation or to provide a refund of the ticket price, without penalty, if requested.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We allow Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd., to suspend its scheduled service at Waterloo, Iowa, effective February 7, 2003;
2. We will rely on Northwest Airlink's remaining service to meet the EAS needs of Waterloo;
3. This docket will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve a copy of this order on the parties listed in Docket OST-2002-13825.

By:

READ C. VAN de WATER
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov>*

³ For example, see Orders 91-9-63, September 30, 1991, regarding Hancock/Houghton, Michigan; 98-3-17, March 18, 1998, regarding 11 Western communities; 2000-12-22, December 22, 2000, regarding Rhinelander, Wisconsin; and 2001-12-6, December 5, 2001, regarding Staunton, Virginia.

WATERLOO, IOWA
AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

